The Call Letter

November 2021
Volume 47 #11

This British Thomson-Houston Bijou Crystal set from 1924 was manufactured in Rugby, England. It is from Dick Howard's collection. Complete with BBC seal on the front and instructions in the lid.
Purchased at the Rickereall Swap Meet last month.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter is a monthly publication (since 1974) of the society and supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Routine society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM Society functions include technical instruction, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales, announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

Charter member Jim Mason. A bequest from his estate has helped support the Society and the Call Letter since 1999.

2021 Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009)	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President Franklin Ouchida	crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 573-3895)	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y Liles Garcia (503 649-9288)	landn2@frontier.com
Board member Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	soundmikey14@gmail.com
Librarian Jeff LaDoe (503) 408-4446	flat4pdx@gmail.com

NOTE: No formal meeting last month so no meeting minutes, and no featured radio report in this issue

VETERANS

We thank you for your service.

Please wear something to the November meeting that identifies your service: a hat, a jacket, part of your uniform. We'd like to say

Thank you.

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Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message

By Pat Kagi, President

It's that time to think about our leadership for 2022! In November nominate candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. We need a volunteer for Historian and we need a new Swap Meet coordinator. Robbie is stepping down.

We have a great Christmas gathering scheduled for Dec 11. A catered meal, a Gift Exchange and a DJ - Plan now to attend. **RSVP "for your meal" by email or at the November meeting.**

In November, we are starting a restoration event to get members to engaged in restoring a radio or electronic devices. The emphasis will be on newer members or those who have not yet attempted a restoration. We encourage participants to ask for assistance, either technical or material in nature. We have members lined up who have tubes, capacitors, resistors, knobs, parts, and expertise available. Document your progress- take pictures, and keep a log of actions and replacements.

If you have questions or issues slowing your restoration progress send a message out to the NVRS and PSARA members at NWVRS@googlegroups.com or directly contact other members who are willing to help out.

Join the fun! Pat

Meeting Notes

From Franklin Ouchida

The Oct 23 Auction had an approximate attendance of 35; 26 members and 9 guests. We are always hoping for more.

The November meeting's *Featured Radios* will be Radios that start with a "U" and we'll have a Tech Talk by Blake Dietze.

Share your latest project or skill! Sign up to do a Tech Talk. in person or on Zoom. Email me at crazykeychains@gmail.com

Radio Talk: Join us every Wednesday at 7:00 pm (pacific time) for WRNZ (Wednesday Radio Nights on Zoom) just as close as your computer or phone. Everyone is invited.

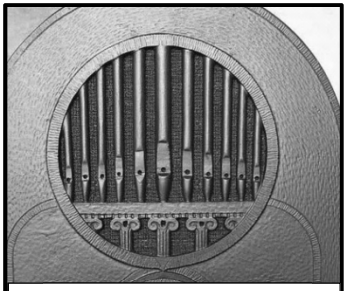
PSARA (our Seattle Sister club) has invited NVRS members to join them on the third Sunday of each month on Zoom. The Zoom channel opens at 10 am, & the membership meeting at 11.

For those without email access, please contact me by phone (971-407-8108) and I'll put you on a call list, so you will get word of last minute announcements and cancellations.

Photo Hunt

Call Letter contributor Dan Howard and I are hoping that you can locate photographs, ads and descriptions of radios that were designed with an organ pipe motif.

Send scanned photos or the URL of websites with the pictures in them.



The grill of a Zaney-Gill designed Clarion Music Box (version 1) duralium case, circa 1930

This project, inspired by Dick Howard and George Kirkwood remind us that many vintage radio collectors have a soft spot for pipe organs (or organ pipes). Make this wonderful photo spread feature in the December Call Letter. Avoid the ***Rush*** - Start sending me leads right away.

Christmas Party December 11

The annual Christmas party begins at 9:30 on December 11 at the grange hall. We have to be wrapping up by 12:30.

The catered meal from Arlene's Cuisine and party fun will be made more fun by the Christmas DJ, the on-site Santa Clause (a great photo opportunity) and the old fashion gift exchange. No Pot Luck this year. Arlene's Cuisine will do all the cooking.

We will provide beverages. You're welcome to bring deserts.

Be part of the gift exchange. Bring one - Get one. Bring a nice gift that you'd like to receive. The gift need not be new. The drawing will happen throughout the event (by random number).

Arrive early enough to help set up- your volunteer Christmas club committee will be there at 7:30- join us for some more fun!

[We also need fast workers to help us move out- we need to be locking the door by 1:30 that day.]

Christmas Gift Exchange-

Here's how it works

1. Everyone who brings a gift, gets a gift
2. Gift Wrap something "you would like to get." Bring it along.
3. Drop off the gift get a ticket with an exchange number
4. The anonymous gifts will be given to the final recipient by drawing the EXCHANGE ticket at random.
5. All gifting is final – put it under your own tree if you like.

Gift Exchange Rules:

a. This is **not** a *White Elephant* gift

b. This is something you'd like to receive

c. The gift needs to be "somewhat radio related"

d. If you & your spouse each bring a gift, each will receive one

e. The perceived value of the gift will be between $10 and $25

f. Gifts need not be new – (something from your collection?)

g. Gifts are wrapped anonymously (no card – nothing showing)

h. The gift exchange drawing is at the discretion of the MC

i. If you received "your own gift" another gift will be drawn for you and your gift will return to the pool

j. This gift exchange is separate from the club sponsored Door Prize drawings, or other contest awards, gifts, or prizes.

We hope to see you there-

Dick Karman, Blake Dietz & Dave Pidwerbecki

Swap Shop

The **Swap Shop** is for members' classified ads. Ads are free to members. Service ads and WANTED ads can be permanent. FOR SALE ads will run for 90 days or until cancelled by the posting member (whichever comes first).

Services:

Contact these members for training in Radio Repair:

Jan and Glenn Anderson	425 750 7600 Longview
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895 Vancouver

WANTED:

Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

Looking for BASCO headphones and other radio-related Briggs & Stratton items.

Tom Marshall, 503-771-4748 tomnlinmarshall@comcast.net.

2 knobs for a Westinghouse H126 "Refrigerator Radio" in brown.
Hunting for a Toshiba 7TP30 in black. (Cosmetically clean)
Searching for Packard Bell 5R1 any Parts, Part Sets and/ Or Displayable Sets in Pink, Yellow and Green.
Looking for a Arborcone Speaker for my Arborphone 26
Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com 971-407-8108

FOR SALE:

Philco Model 20 Table Top for $70 and a Silvertone Model 6074 1930 Table top $50. Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565

I need a meter lens for a Heathkit IM-32 VTVM. Parts, or meter. Mike McCrow 503-7304639

I collect and restore tube record players / phonographs; any table radios, portables, even Consoles! If you have a tube set that is in your way, and that you would like to get rid of or sell cheaply, please call. I also will repair or restore your tube sets. Email me a picture, or give me a call. Thanks! John Livingston 503-708-2987

Military radios: 2 ea. R392 receivers, 2 ea. R662 transceivers, 1 ea. AM3349 400 watt RF amplifier. Complete but untested and came from the estate of a very active local ham. Lots of cables and manuals too. $1200 for everything.
Bill Holeman bpasok@live.com

Tektronix 575 curve tracer. Includes the high voltage testing mod and Tek cart and original manual. Does not power on. No further troubleshooting has been done. - $350
Bill Holeman bpasok@live.com

Edison Chalet diamond disc wind up phonograph. Works well and is fairly uncommon. $125.00 Victor Victrola Model IX spring driven phonograph works well & in nice shape. $150.00 (Pics available). Contact Pat at patkagi@yahoo.com

Submission Guidelines for the Call Letter

1. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing for grammar, content, good taste and accuracy.
2. Material submitted for publication must be emailed to the editor by the THIRD THURSDAY of the month prior to publication.
3. Articles with more than 1,500 words may be divided into parts.
4. Ads are free to members, but Ads for Services, Wanted and For Sale are limited to 30 words per submission.
5. Email protocol:
   Send it with a subject line of **NVRS BUSINESS**;
   send it to Relivingradio@karmans.net.
6. Content from officers or committees takes priority
7. Please include captions and attribution for photos submitted.

Restoration

Atwater Kent Big Box 20 Restoration –

By Jeff Hutchinson
(with an introduction by Cliff Tuttle)

At the end of the August 2021 NVRS Tech Talk (on Atwater Kent Radios), I offered up a challenge to the audience. The challenge was a Big Box AK20, generously provided to NVRS by the McCracken Estate. It would be offered to anyone present. The price was not to be cash, but rather, the story. Whoever took it would be asked to document their resurrection story.

You should know, this "Lazarus" was indeed dead. The buzzards had picked its carcass (ok, the first RF Coil was gone). But along with this almost complete unit, I sweetened the deal with a parts-set Big Box front panel that would provide the restoration at least with a transplant coil.

Jeff Hutchinson stepped up and accepted the challenge. This great documentary, as it was emailed to me, is his payment in full. (I really like his technique to deal with tar)

Cliff Tuttle

From Jeff Hutchinson-

I spoke to Cliff recently at the Aurora Swap Meet about the Atwater Kent 20 (4640) radio that he provided me free to repair. Thanks to him for the extra AK parts, as they were needed. The restoration went well, with some bizarre findings in the audio section.

First, the normal scenario:

Component checks.

1) One of the two GRID RESISTORS was way off the 600 ohm value and a 680 ohm 1/2W carbon resistor installed & heat-shrinked across old part.

2) GRID CONSENSER tested low value so placed 250pf mica capacitor across old one. **all old parts left with one lead clipped off

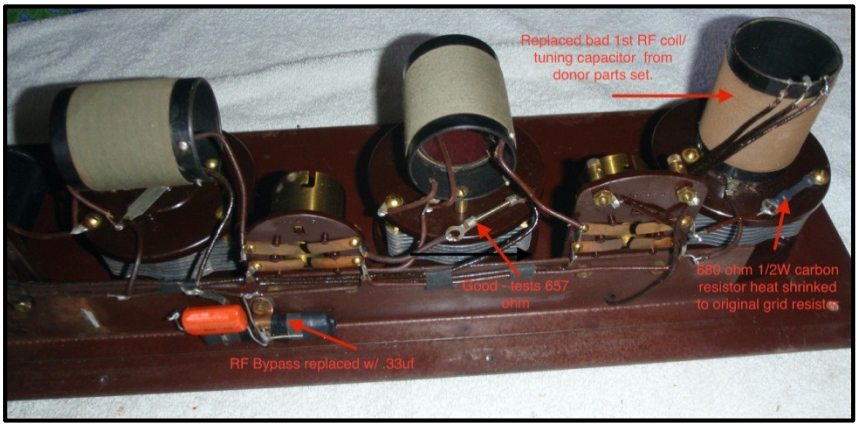
3) PHONE CONDENSER tested bad. Replaced with .002uf film capacitor, heat-shrinked to old part.

4) RF BYPASS CONDENSER tested high. Replaced with .33uf film capacitor across old part.

5) GRID LEAK tested 3.75M. Replaced with 1.96M grid leak from my parts box.

6) RF/DET RHEOSTATS all tested in spec. along with POWER SWITCH.

7) AF TRANSFORMERS - both tested open. Replaced old AFT's with standard AFT's from David Snow at ARBE III.


Replaced bad 1st RF coil/ tuning capacitor from donor parts set.
Good - tests 657 ohm
680 ohm 1/2W carbon resistor heat shrinked to original grid resistor
RF Bypass replaced w/ .33uf

8) (5) "01A" TUBES - all test working.

Continuity checks.

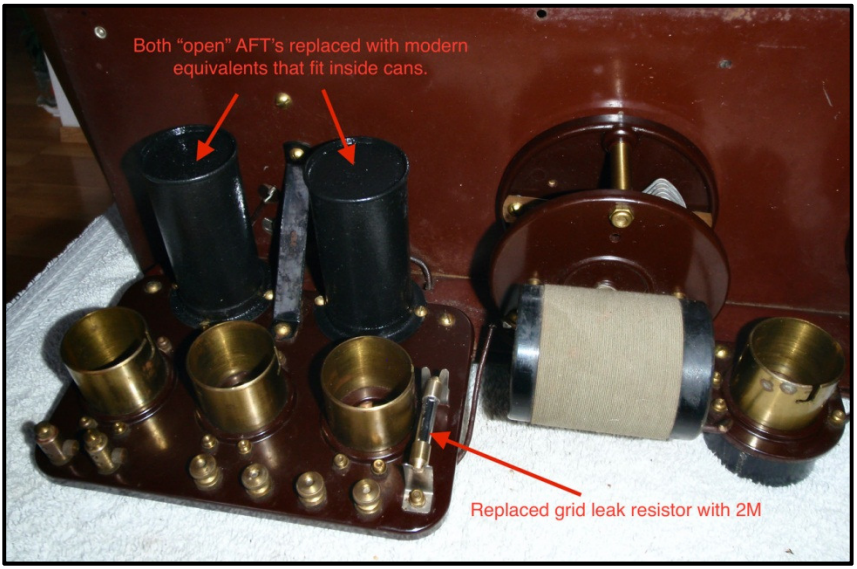
9) Wiring continuity checked in circuit, all coil windings check OK. Cleaned dirty ANT. SWITCH CONTACTS & TUBE SOCKET CONTACTS.

Removing old Audio Frequency Transformers from cans.

I initially FROZE these cans in the freezer. The tar was brittle and easily shattered, BUT I was unable to access the top and sides to extract it from the tar (asphalt) potting.

Next, I placed cans upright with two 1 X 2 strips of wood on edge of can bottom. Then I ran 2 each screws to hold the cans to wood strips. I ran a drywall screw into center of the transformer, and attached a large, heavy pair of vise grip pliers to end of screw.

I placed the cans on top of an open box, deep enough for the AFT's to fall out and used my Wagner heat gun around the cans to soften tar (about 5 min each). The weight of the vice grips allowed gravity to do its work. No need to hold the hot can with gloves and pull. It worked like a charm.



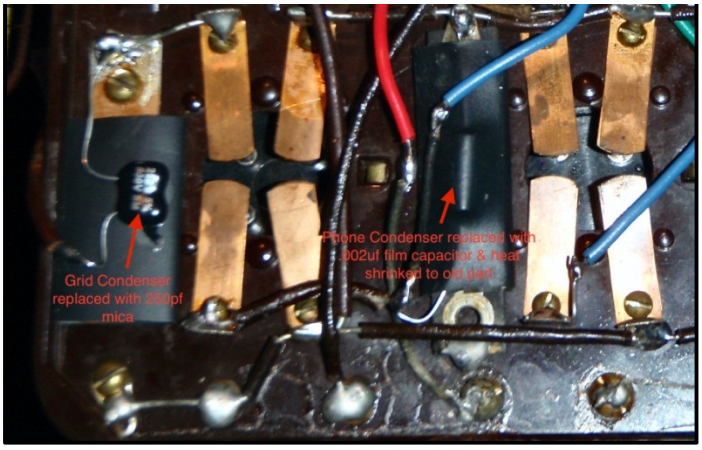
Now the bizarre part:

I have done probably over 100 restorations of all kinds of vintage radios, from the earliest tube sets to transistor radios. I have a good eye detecting previous work attempted on a radio.

For instance, different color shades of solder, wires and components that are not period, etc.

This AK20 chassis appeared to be untouched: Nothing new under the chassis, no newer solder joints, no unusual wiring, etc. The only thing really was that someone robbed some parts off the 1st tapped coil. I used the 1st COIL/VC on the parts chassis that Cliff provided to replace it. Otherwise, I would have bet $$$ that this chassis was factory original with parts and wiring.

It turns out that the wiring from each of the AFT's was INCORRECT. Example - the 1st AFT had no connection to the DET tube's plate or PHONE CONDENSER (AK's black primary wire). AFT connections to the 1st AUDIO & 2nd AUDIO tube's GRID & PLATE were reversed.



My conclusion: I think sometime in the 1920's, probably shortly after the warranty expired on this set, both AFT's went bad. Someone obtained new AK AFT'S and attempted to install them. Maybe they had a tough time reading the original AK schematic (I would!). I'm not sure why they wouldn't label the leads or just replace each AFT wire one-by-one?? Anyway, I believe it is impossible that this set left the AK factory wired like this. If I am correct, that means this radio has been silent for

a very, very, very long time. Does that make sense? (Cliff, The Leigh Bassett schematic re-make is nice!)

It's working great! I powered up using my ARBE III. I have the nice matching AK Type M horn speaker; using my 100' long wire outside antenna. No ground was needed – (did not note a difference). It picked up lots of stations from 620 (dials 67-64-64), to 1530 (dials 3-0-0). I did not expect to get past 1400kHz.

The cabinet had some loose joints. I used wood glue and clamps to bond it. I lightly sanded the exterior with a fine 600 grit. It came out as smooth as glass. Then I applied two coats of Tung Oil (dry mahogany sucked it in!) and a final application of refined walnut oil (thick!). I rubbed all excess oil off the wood. Yes, that mahogany is as "red" as in the photo. My wife and son were more impressed with the mahogany cabinet than the radio!

Thanks again for the restoration challenge! It's nice to save a radio from a landfill. I was also reminded to expect the unexpected when restoring radios.

Jeff Hutchinson

From our Roving Reporter:
Hue Miller

The Rickreall, Oregon "Swaptoberfest" on October 16 was very lightly attended. The drive there was no picnic either. At one point the I-5 freeway slowed to 35 mph because of the solid wall of fog. My drive from the coast did not have solid fog, but was not a lot of fun anyway. Even the GPS woman seemed to be curt that morning. And it got worse, at random points when I knew I was on the right road, she would say, "Turn right. Turn left. Turn right". Ah, well.

At the nine o'clock starting gun, the usual thundering herd was not a herd and it was not thundering and none of show aisles were ever crowded at all.

However, if you're interested in ham radio or scanners or CB and didn't attend, I think you really missed out. There were the collected items from at least 3 large estates and also the leftovers from a closed radio communications maintenance shop. For example, there was a box of something like 25 handie-talkies or handheld scanners, each bagged with duck antenna and AC adapter, $10 your choice. There were

This photo by Jerry Lavoie shows how popular the Hamfest has been in the past- 2018. Hopefully it will return to its heyday. Photo courtesy of Polk County fairgrounds.

speaker/mic add-ons for your handheld radio, new boxed, $1 each. I bought several of each. There were tons of other larger scanners and VHF and HF ham radios for “fire-sale prices.”

The only things I saw offered for "retail" prices were a number of Collins S-Line radios, where it looked to me that the sellers had (wisely) consulted some value reference before pricing them. One seller of S-Line radios had a competitive price and all his other stuff was dirt-cheap. If you wanted a good VOM there was a bunch of them, clean working, $2 each. That means everything from Simpson and Triplett classics to FET-VOMs.

I bought a Heathkit regulated HV power supply, which is still very useful to own, and their prices online are still up there. (I’ve been watching.) I found practically no older vacuum tubes for sale, as Mike Miller from Salem, Oregon did not set up for this show. (Considering the low attendance, not a mistake.)

There were very few home-type broadcast band radios, with prices from free to a very few bucks. Not a lot of military gear either. I saw 3 hacked BC-312 sold for prices from $1 to $5. A TDQ vhf transmitter, as large as a refrigerator, changed hands, but I don't understand why. A couple good condition "Command receivers" for $25 each; I bought one. I had brought a couple heavy large receivers. At the end of the meet, I gave them away. Oh well, so it goes.

I talked to one fellow who told me the turnout was due to aging-out of the ham radio enthusiasts, but I don't think that effect is quite as precipitous. I think COVID fear and the scary road conditions in the morning may have been a factor, but for those who made it, the day soon turned out to be warm and sunny. The large amount of estate closeouts was no doubt due to build-up during the period of quarantines and no hamfests.

Driving home through the verdant green Oregon farmlands, I drove past the site of Camp Adair, once Oregon's largest city. In WWII it was built for infantry training because its resemblance to European terrain; I don't think there's anywhere in Europe where it rains as much. But when I see the rolling

farmland between Albany and Adair, the rolling green fields with occasional dark

little forest stand islands, I think, if the Reich's plotters had known of Oregon's beauty, they would have sent armies here, rather than driving east to seize the barren steppes.

It was good to see folks again and hobnob with the regulars. I am very glad I went! Afterward I went to a rental storage unit and 11 years late, finally started digging through my parents' estate items. I ended up collecting almost all of the contents for donation.

I got up at 04:00, got home at 22:30, a long day but well spent.

(Sorry guys- I couldn't find a picture of a Pilgrim holding a Stromberg Carlson.)

From the NWVRS and the Call Letter

1 Thessalonians 5:18

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NVRS Call Letter

FIRST CLASS MAIL